

# County Councilman David Marks Fifth District Newsletter

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## **MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS:** **REZONING AND THE FUTURE OF OUR NEIGHBORHOODS**

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, hundreds of people attended the Planning Board's hearing on the rezoning process in the Fifth District. There is clearly an unprecedented amount of interest in rezoning, which determines how land can be developed in Baltimore County.

Rezoning is a tough process. It requires striking a balance between private property rights and what may be best for the community. At the Planning Board hearing, some propertyowners talked about wanting to maximize their ability to develop their land. At the same time, many residents expressed concern about traffic and school overcrowding. **Our office initiated a historic amount of acreage for review because the Fifth District needs this dialogue.** I am very concerned about the growth that will occur at the current level of zoning—and our ability to pay for the new infrastructure needed by development.

While the rezoning process will not end until August, our office has already made some recommendations. For example, [I opposed allowing dormitories in Southland Hills](#). Since then, the petitioner has dropped plans for this facility.



*The March 22<sup>nd</sup> Planning Board hearing*

After meeting with representatives with the Idlewyld Community Association and the owner of the property, [our office an agreement that blocks plans for a discount store on a small stretch of Sherwood Road in Towson.](#)

Finally, [our office reached agreement with St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church on a plan](#) to limit growth on about 40 acres near Ridgelys Choice Drive.

We will continue to try to find consensus on important issues affecting Fifth District neighborhoods.

## **OPEN HOUSE PLANNED FOR PERRY HALL MANSION**

Councilman Marks and Historic Perry Hall Mansion, Inc., will host an open house at the historic home. Tours of the mansion will begin at 9 a.m., with a meeting on Saturday, May 7 at 10 a.m. to review the history of the renovation and consider next steps. RSVP to [rhensler@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:rhensler@baltimorecountymd.gov).



*The Perry Hall Mansion*

## KINGSVILLE TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS ADVANCE IN 2016

For the past decade, the Maryland State Highway Administration has been discussing the construction of a roundabout at Harford Road and Mount Vista Roads to improve safety at this intersection. The State Highway Administration anticipates awarding the contract and giving the contractor notice to proceed this spring. Find out more about the schedule for this project [here](#).

## JERICHO COVERED BRIDGE TO REOPEN

The dedication and reopening of the Jericho Covered Bridge will be on Monday, April 25 at 11 a.m. Councilman Marks thanks all those involved in the restoration of this landmark, which spans the border of Baltimore and Harford Counties.



## TRAFFIC CALMING PLANNED ALONG HICKORYHURST DRIVE

Intersection improvements are planned at Hickoryhurst and Oak Park Drives, in the heavily-populated Seven Courts Drive corridor. The \$15,000 project will feature a raised brick surface designed by engineers to slow traffic.

The Department of Public Works qualified the area for these improvements more than a year ago. Councilman Marks has been working for

several months to secure approval from adjacent propertyowners. With their support, the project will move forward and should be built by the end of April.

Other neighborhoods may apply for a traffic calming study by accessing [this link](#).

## PERRY HALL MCDONALD'S TO PRESENT PLANS AT OPEN HOUSE

Councilman Marks has arranged for the management of the Perry Hall McDonald's restaurant to share plans for the new building with interested residents. There will be an open house at the restaurant at 9106 Belair Road on Thursday, April 19 at 6 p.m.

At this open house, the management of the McDonald's will be available to answer any questions.

The existing McDonald's restaurant, built in 1977, will be replaced by a modern building with improved drive-thru lanes. Plans call for construction to start in spring or summer of 2017. Because of legislation passed by Councilman Marks, the plans will be evaluated by the Baltimore County Design Review Panel, a panel of professional architects that looks at building aesthetics in certain commercial districts.



*Preliminary plans for the Perry Hall McDonalds*